

Public Notice – Environmental Project

PURPOSE OF NOTICE:

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project in Virginia coastal waters.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

September 8, 2009 to October 1, 2009

TYPE OF RESPONSE:

Federal Consistency Determination

DEQ is reviewing a proposed federal action to determine if it is consistent with the Virginia Coastal Resources Management Program (VCP) established pursuant to the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The VCP seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:

DOC/NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The National Marine Fisheries Service has submitted a Federal Consistency Determination for the 2010 Atlantic mackerel, squid and butterfish specifications and management measures. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council made recommendations for 2010 specifications for the Atlantic mackerel, squid and butterfish (MSB) fisheries at its June 2009 meeting. The preferred annual specifications are: Atlantic mackerel-Acceptable biological Catch (ABC)=156,000 metric tons (mt), Initial Optimum Yield (IOY)=Domestic Annual Harvest (DAH)=115,000 mt., Domestic Annual Processing (DAP)=100,000 mt (the same as in 2009); *Illex* squid (*Illex illecebrosus*)-Max OY=ABC=IOY=DAH=DAP=24,000 mt (the same as in 2009); Butterfish-Max OY=12,175 mt, ABC=1,500 mt, IOY=DAH=DAP=500 mt (the same as in 2009); *Loligo* squid (*Loligo pealeii*)-Max OY=32,000 mt, ABC=IOY=DAH=DAP=19,000 mt (the same as in 2009); and the *Loligo* squid (*Loligo pealeii*) "net strengthener"/"codend cover" minimum mesh requirement is an increase in "net strengthener"/"codend cover" minimum mesh requirement from 4.5 inches to 5 inches (inside stretch measurement). NMFS finds the proposed specifications and management measure consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Resources Management Program (VCP) (also called the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program).

HOW TO COMMENT:

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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